

### Bye bye beret

A new policy aims to make wearing the uniform less complicated for Soldiers

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### Romantic Road gem

From half-timbered houses to the Kinderzeche, Dinkelsbuehl bustles with Bavarian charm

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### Stage presence

Performers from around Bavaria show the judges they've got what it takes

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# Bavarian News

Vol. 7, Nr. 12 U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt and Garmisch June 22, 2011

## One grand rendezvous

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The colors of the 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade were cased in a traditional ceremony here, June 11, officially marking the end of training for the brigade's upcoming deployment in support of ISAF in Afghanistan.

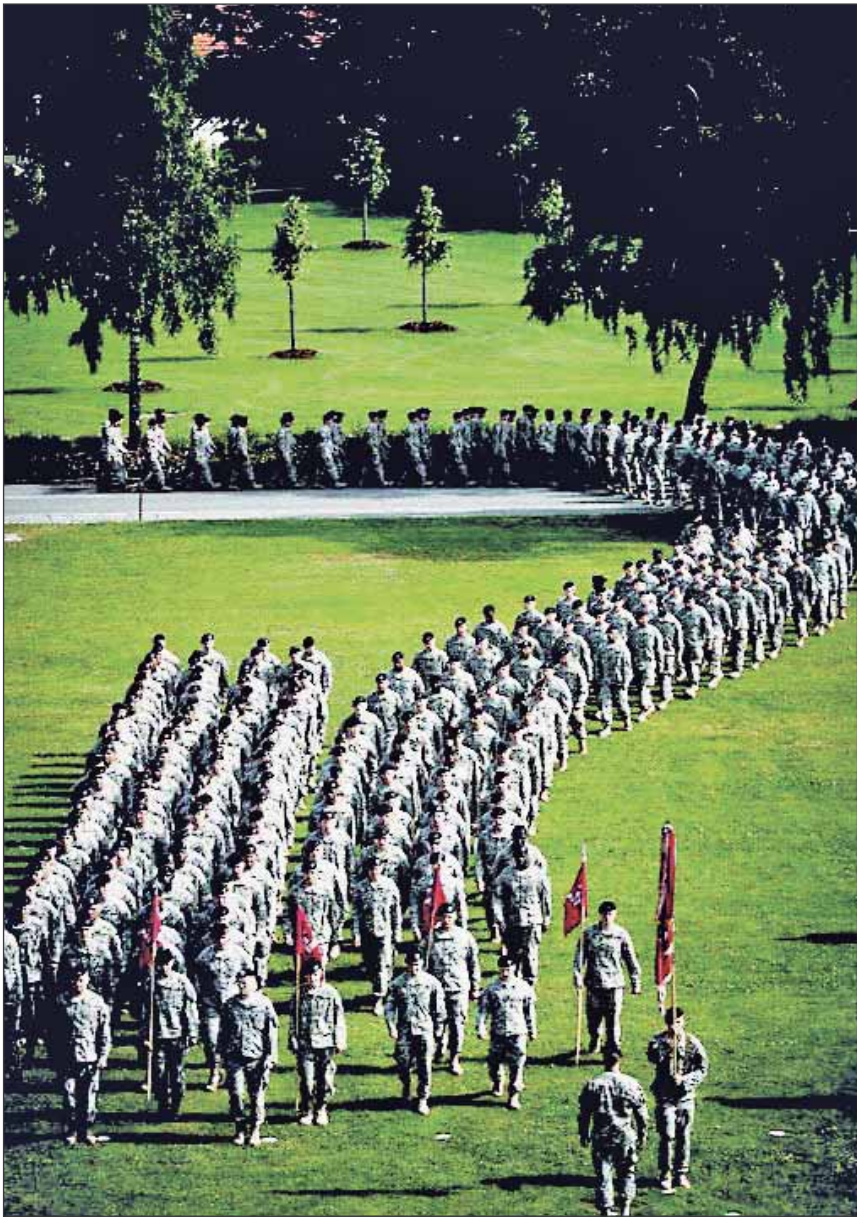
Col. Edward T. Bohne-mann, commander, 172nd Sep. Inf. Bde., will uncase

the brigade colors once the entire brigade has deployed and set up in the brigade's area of responsibility in Afghanistan.

Brig. Gen. Allen W. Batschelet, deputy commander, V Corps, and Brig. Gen. Steven L. Salazar, commanding general, 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, were in attendance.



Photos by Spc. Robert Holland



## Housing allowance increases after survey

By U.S. Army Europe  
*News Release*

HEIDELBERG, Germany — Eligible service members will soon be seeing more money in their bank accounts, thanks to the results from the 2011 Overseas Housing Allowance Utility and Recurring Maintenance survey.

The increase, which raised the monthly utility allowance by 32 euros to a total of 656 euros, was based on data gathered through the OHA Utility and Recurring Maintenance survey taken by members receiving OHA in Germany. The increase took effect June 16.

"Thank you to all who took the survey," said Marlena Walker, USA-REUR's chief of financial management policy. "The increase is a tangible result of the time and effort put into taking the survey."

Department of Defense Military Advisory Panel members approved the increase May 31.

The next OHA Utility and Recurring Maintenance survey for Germany is scheduled for March 2012.

## INSIDE

### Taking the helm

Soldiers from the 69th Signal Battalion and BMEDDAC have new leaders after recent change of command ceremonies. See pages 6 and 12

### IED degree

JMTC's Badger Team provides deploying Soldiers with up-to-date information on ways to defeat improvised explosive devices. See page 14

### GTA museum

A new exhibit in Grafenwoehr shows how tank trails and explosions have saved endangered animals. See page 16

## Deanie Dempsey dishes with spouses

Story and photo by  
**Molly Hayden**  
*Staff Writer*

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — During a visit to Main Post here, June 2, Deanie Dempsey, wife of Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, met with more than 20 Family Readiness Group leaders of the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment and 172nd Infantry Brigade to discuss issues pertaining to the military family.

"I'm here to get the real scoop," said Dempsey, emphasizing the word real. "Military spouses are abrupt and honest; they are the pulse of the community and will tell you the good and bad of what's going on."

Dempsey sat alongside a panel of additional senior spouses including Sue Hertling, wife of Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe; Martina Salazar, wife of Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, commanding general of the Joint Multinational Train-



ing Command; and Tamara Smiley, wife of Col. Vann Smiley, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

The senior spouses listened carefully as FRG leaders and spouses explained various woes including the lack of efficient child care on post and employment challenges.

The conversation flowed effortlessly, and as each concern was raised,

Deanie Dempsey, right, listens as Jolly Miller, Army Community Service director, center, discusses recent program developments at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, June 2.

Dempsey candidly asked questions while her advisor took notes. Dempsey said she would bring these issues back to her husband.

"Now that he's in a position to actually do something with these concerns my role is to be a conduit between you and (him)," Dempsey told the crowd.

See DEMPSEY, page 17

## Family finds closure at POW camp

By Mark Iacampo  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

HOHENFELS, Germany — Staring out over the green fields and rolling hills of the Hohenfels Training Area, Martin Everton of Little Kaiteriteri, New Zealand, found it hard to believe that

66 years ago his father was a prisoner of war in this very spot. All that remains of Stalag 383 are some foundation stones, shattered glass, faded photographs and memories.

Everton's father, Edgar (Ted) served with the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force as a rank sergeant

for a medical unit. He was captured during the Battle of Greece in 1941. He spent the next four years as a POW, first in Greece, then Austria, and finally Hohenfels.

"This has been really emotional," said Everton, who has traveled more than 12,000 miles to complete his

pilgrimage. "It's been part of our lives for 60 odd years. It was always talked about, not in a bad way, but it was really hard to picture the place. And being at the same place — where you see the valley and the trees on the hill — looking

See POW, page 17

### Defender 6 sends

## BRAC is on time, on target

SAN ANTONIO — The past 10 years have brought a great deal of change to our Army. Not only do our Soldiers continue to fight in two wars, but the Army is going through the greatest organizational change since World War II.

Between instituting the Army Force Generation model, reorganizing around modular brigades and the Base Realignment and Closure process, our Army looks very different than it did 10 years ago.

The BRAC process is a large part of that reorganization. With its completion on time and on target in September, the Army will have reshaped its infrastructure to better support Soldiers, Civilians and Families.

The BRAC commission made recommendations about how to make efficiencies in the Department of Defense to the president, who presented them to Congress and those recommendations became law in September 2005. Of the 182 commission recommendations, 113 affected the Army. This BRAC is an important part of the Army's historic transformation and has affected many commands, including the Installation Management Command Headquarters in San Antonio, Texas.

BRAC 2005 enables the Army to reshape its infrastructure to support its forces. It repositions our forces,

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## Bavarian News

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Water Tower art by Dane Gray

## Commander's Message



# July Fourth a time to celebrate, remember

Gruess Gott! Effective June 6, Kathy Aydt is on board as the deputy garrison commander for the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Enterprise.

She comes to us from Headquarters, Installation Management Command, with her last assignment being the director of strategic communications.

We are blessed to have her energy, enthusiasm and positive leadership on the team as well as her insights having served at our higher headquarters for some time. When the opportunity presents itself, please welcome her to the command.

For the past several months, Audre Binder has been serving in the "acting DGC" capacity. Due to her professionalism, diligence and work ethic, our enterprise was able to keep moving and not miss a beat when it comes to accomplishing our mission writ large. On behalf of the command group, I personally want to thank both of these professionals for all that they do, have done and will do in support of U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, and the Soldiers, Family members and Civilians that we serve.

## Congrats, grads

I'd also like to say congratulations and "Viel Glueck" (good luck) to our recent high school graduates from Hohenfels and Vilseck high schools and also from the Munich International School, where our Garmisch high school students attend.

Great job, grads!

## Independence Day at Graf

On Aug. 1, 1776, Samuel Adams delivered a speech from the steps of the State House in Philadelphia, the meeting place of the Continental Congress, entitled, "American Freedom." In the last paragraph he said, "You have now in the field armies sufficient to repel the whole force of your enemies, and their base and mercenary auxiliaries. The hearts of your soldiers beat high with the spirit of freedom — they are animated with the justice of their cause, and while they grasp their swords, can look up to heaven for assistance."

For my own part, I ask no greater blessing than to share with you the common danger and common glory. If I have a wish dearer to my soul, than that my ashes may be mingled with those of a Warren and Montgomery — it is — that these American States may never cease to be free and independent!"

These words still hold true today as we continue to fight and send our Army to many different fronts. We continue to be an Army able to repel our enemies, and their base and mercenary auxiliaries.

On this Fourth of July, I urge every-

one to join in on celebrations and to spend time with family, but to also remember those who are still fighting — still repelling those enemies. Know that those who are fighting and those who have fought and fallen before us have not fought or died in vain. No, they have preserved what we still hold most dear to us even 235 years after the signing the Declaration of Independence — freedom.

Though Grafenwoehr's Fourth of July event this year won't be as large as last year's celebration, which also combined the 100th anniversary of the training area, there will still be plenty of activities for the entire family on Graf's parade field, including a live DJ, jumping castles, face painting, games, a magic show, loads of food and beverages, a great local German band "Pop Nach 8," and, of course, a fireworks show.

In addition, we'll be inviting our local national neighbors and partners from outside the gates to experience some American culture while celebrating our independence, so please help us extend the same hospitality and "Gemuetlichkeit" (coziness) they provide our Soldiers and family members year-round.

Thanks again for continuing to make Grafenwoehr great!

*Col. Vann Smiley  
Commander, U.S. Army  
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

# Soldier 360°: Change is necessary

The second observation in an eight-part series designed to help Soldiers become healthier and more resilient in their daily lives and careers.

By Denver Makle

*Joint Multinational Training Command  
Public Affairs*

"It's a Tony Robbins quote: 'If you always do what you've always done,'" said psychologist, Dr. Glen M. Wurglitz, a major in the Army reserves and Soldier 360° instructor in Grafenwoehr. "You'll get what you've always gotten."

Wurglitz sets the example. He told his story and set the stage. He's a Catholic priest and psychologist, who also happens to be a Soldier in the Army reserves. He set the perfect example.

It's all about adaptation and change. Most people think change is hard, impossible and uncomfortable, but I submit that change is necessary. During the Soldier 360°, Leader Comprehensive Fitness Course, a two-week course for noncommissioned officers, leaders were stretched.

Their challenge was to face those fears that paralyze the processes that could move them forward and learn how to better lead, communicate and support their Soldiers, who are facing their own challenges. For me, a bystander, I had the opportunity to do some soul-searching of my own.

What are life's stressors? Finances, children, relationships and work — all produce major stress. And I had to ask, do I really know what good is, what it looks and feels like?

For those of us in the course, it was an opportunity to reflect on life's experiences and let some things go, especially thoughts, activities and actions that are harmful and detrimental to personal success and growth. Some peers expressed feelings of disconnection at home, and being confused in the family environment. Personally, I realized I might be a little too involved at home.



Ten years ago, I was an active duty, single-parent Soldier. It was very hard, but I planned well, and I was successful. Today, I realize that my super-organized Soldier lifestyle created a crutch for my children, which overstresses me with responsibilities that don't belong to me anymore. Life should be a piece of cake, but it isn't.

I realized my perspective had to change. I was teaching them bad habits about time and money management by not holding them responsible for age appropriate responsibilities. They aren't children anymore. They are young adults at 20, 19 and 17.

I overlooked that I'm not just their mother; I have to be a mentor, coach and teammate, not sole provider and the fix-it lady. They are old enough to work. I've had to learn to say no and mean it.

They have since set budgets for themselves, and have to operate under those constraints like the rest of the world.

"Time does not heal all wounds," Wurglitz said during the class. "It's how you use your time that heals the wounds."

I learned it's natural to over- or un-

dercompensate and fall-short sometimes. Life is about finding peace and balance. Frequent deployments, family separations and the challenges with reintegrating in a community that has changed can all be very stressful, however, it can also be a very exciting time. It's a time of new opportunities and to start over, clean slate.

One good thing about our community is that there are many highly trained professionals that will help us set priorities, balance our budgets and learn to manage the family stress. What I learned is that it may take a network of individuals to help you move forward, and after meeting many of them during Soldier 360°, I see how much they care and want to help.

"The only constant is change," said Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher who was known for his doctrine on change being an essential process in the universe.

Plato later said, based on his work that "everything flows, nothing stands still."

We can all learn something from two very old, smart leaders. We have to start today. Soldier 360° provides the tools.

I have to use those tools every day and accept responsibility for my own future. I am in control. I can set new priorities, or the situations and opportunities in my life will change without my guidance and input.

I vow, I will not do what I've always done and I will not expect what I've always gotten.

I encourage you to do the same. Take charge and dare to do something different. If you don't like the result, change something else until you get what you want. Since physicists have already established that "change" is the only constant, why not live life to the fullest believing that change is a good thing. It's how we get what we really want.

# BRAC goals are being met

Continued from page 1

making them more relevant and combat ready for the combatant commander. It also creates doctrinal efficiencies by consolidating schools into centers of excellence and headquarters and other activities into joint or multifunctional installations for efficiency and cost control.

Joint Base San Antonio is experiencing the largest economic development in its history with 10,000 families relocating here. This BRAC move has transformed the former Fort Sam Houston into a premier medical complex and the largest medical training campus in the world.

Fort Benning, the new home of the Maneuver Center of Excellence, is a good example of how BRAC growth has been handled in an environmentally and fiscally sustainable way. Thirty-four new projects have been built there as a result of BRAC.

On installations across the Army you can see signs of success in meeting BRAC 2005 goals. Construction alone has brought thousands of jobs to surrounding communities. Expanded installations have caused local businesses and services to grow. Communities surrounding closure installations have benefited by working with the Army to redevelop surplus property. But, there are also challenges. More people require more schools, houses and emergency services.

Fort Bliss is experiencing the largest BRAC realignment in history with unparalleled growth of 29,600 Soldiers and 45,000 family members relocating there. El Paso embraced BRAC, building new schools, while the state invested \$1 billion for transportation projects in the city and creating thousands of civilian jobs.

IMCOM plays a big part in transforming the Army's infrastructure through BRAC, supporting the movement of organizations and welcoming thousands of Soldiers and civilians onto our installations and surrounding communities.

We have no way of knowing exactly what the future will look like, but the 2005 BRAC process better positioned the Army to meet future challenges. The Army has realigned its infrastructure, all while becoming more fiscally and environmentally sustainable.

When it is complete it will be a major achievement for the Army. By this September, the Army will have completed over \$13 billion in construction and renovation projects, and a reorganization that will affect one-third of the Army.

*Lt. Gen Rick Lynch  
Commander, Installation  
Management Command*

## Was denkst du?

(What do you think?)



**Azalia Acosta**  
Family Member  
USAG Grafenwoehr

"Don't settle for just anything and get an education before anything else."



**Spc. Chad Cardenas**  
172nd Infantry Brigade

"If you're going to do something, give it your all."



**Staff Sgt. Sujeiry Cruz**  
262nd MP Detachment,  
1002nd MP Battalion, Bamberg

"You have to do what you have to do to succeed."



**Leroy Gibbs**  
Store Manager  
Grafenwoehr Commissary

"Always do the right thing."



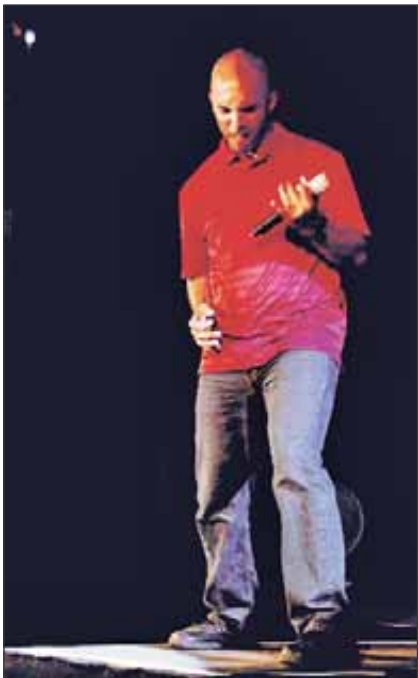
**Spc. Matthew Moffett**  
Task Force 1st Battalion,  
2nd Infantry Regiment

"Stick with what you start."

## What's the best advice your dad gave you?

By Vilseck High School Sophomore Mariah St. John





From left: Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Williams shows off his air guitar moves during the Europe's Got Talent Competition, June 4. Laquan "Lala" Martin performs a spoken word piece titled "Serving Time," which won first place. Family member Jessi Dye struts her stuff during a theatrical performance of "When You're Good to Mama" from the Broadway musical "Chicago."



# View from the stage

A journalist's perspective on performing

Story and photos by  
**Molly Hayden**  
*Staff Writer*

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — I'm a journalist, which means I must engage my gregarious nature when interviewing people to write a story and inform the public on various subjects. This can be troublesome as at times I am painfully shy and socially awkward. Perhaps this is why I chose this field of work and perhaps why I mitigate my reclusive nature even further by playing music in front of crowds — dragging my husband and loyal bandmate Jeremy Buddemeier, managing editor of the *Bavarian News* — with me. Jeremy and I met while working at a newspaper in Hawaii. We shared a love of writing and ukulele music. Neither one of us is necessarily musically inclined, but we both enjoy

playing. Two and a half years after our first jam session, we found ourselves on stage at the Main Post Performing Arts Center with the nomenclature "the buddymolys" for the Europe's Got Talent competition. If you've never been on a stage before, let me explain — it's bright, police-questioning-room-bright, (not that I know this firsthand, but I can imagine), and it's vast and lonely. You hear the hush of the crowd waiting for your next move. This is generally when the stage fright kicks in. And we both have it — but we're not alone.



Hayden

Pfc. Renee Jordan, 172nd Support Battalion, Schweinfurt, Germany, sang a sultry version of Patsy Cline's "Sweet Dreams" with sunglasses on. One could conclude Jordan was in character, but she revealed the stylish shades eased stage fright during her debut performance. However, the audience didn't seem to notice. "She seemed really confident," said Sgt. Derick Call, Armed Forces Network, Bavaria. "Patsy Cline is a great singer and (Jordan) imitated her voice well; she nailed it." But I can relate to Jordan. The stage can be a scary place, and a true performance allows no errors, but, of course, they exist. As Jeremy and I began our folk rendition of the cult rap classic "Ice, Ice, Baby," we realized we had forgotten to turn our microphones on. Our first attempt that night was an

epic fail, so we did what any professional would have done — started over. The crowd chuckled at our second attempt and our song choice, and a few even sang along. It was short and sweet and regardless of how it sounded, we had done it. "It's easier to perform when you're not gunning for the top spot," Jeremy whispered a few moments before our performance. "Remember, this is just good practice." But for many of the talented performers that night vying for "Best of Show," the stage is more than just a tool to overcome adversity; it's an outlet for creative pursuit and a chance to be acknowledged for their talent. Backstage you could feel the presence of those who were born to perform, those who commanded the attention of the audience and those

See STARS, page 17

## Little stars shine brightest at Europe's Got Talent

Story and photos by  
**Molly Hayden**  
*Staff Writer*

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Laura Hurtado has a voice that could easily grace the airwaves. She has perfect pitch, a broad vocal range and sings with the emotion of a professional — and she's only 11 years old. For Hurtado, singing may be as universal a human trait as talking. "If you have the talent, you should share it with other people," said Hurtado. "I try to sing with feeling so other people can feel it, too." The Netzaberg Elementary sixth-grader has developed her voice over the past three years by singing every chance she gets, most recently in the Europe's Got Talent competition at the Main Post Performing Arts Center, June 4. Joline Powell, director of the center, and Sgt. Frank Brown, Armed Forces Network, Bavaria, hosted the event. The competition brought the best of the best from garrisons around Europe to compete and showcase their talent. Each competitor was judged on a regional level by Col. Vann Smiley, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr commander, veteran stage performer Margi Ritscher, and Sgt. Jerry Wilson, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment. Additionally, Army Festival of the Performing Arts and Army Entertainment Director Joe Leavell, along with consultants Ken Freehill and Darryl Allara, traveled from the United States to judge the child and adult competitions on a national level. All six judges were impressed with the amount of talent on stage. "(Hurtado) has excellent control of her breathing and the vocal control of someone twice her age," said Ritscher. Talent seems to run in her family. Hurtado's younger brother, Santiago, 8, also performed, delighting



Bailey Hagar performs for the judges during Europe's Got Talent. The 16-year-old singer/songwriter was awarded second place for her original tune titled "The Closer That You Are."

the judges and audience members by moon walking across the stage to Michael Jackson's "Billy Jean." And Santiago had the moves. From the slide glide to Jackson's famous spin, his body moved in perfect rhythm to the music. So how did he learn those classic moves? "I watched a Michael Jackson video one day and just started dancing," said the Grafenwoehr Elementary School third-grader. "After a while I just got addicted to it." "Dancing is my favorite thing to do," he added. Music is the universal language. It's easy to see how creative youngsters get swept up in the allure of the stage, especially if they have natural talent. Take Bailey Hagar for example. At only 16 years old, Hagar writes her own lyrics and music, sings and plays guitar. She can hold the stage on her own and captures the attention of

anyone within range. The self-taught artist wrote her first song at the age of 9 and started playing guitar just two years ago. She continues to fuel her craft by producing a new song each week and playing in front of an audience whenever she has the opportunity. "Sometimes it's just for friends, but I love being on stage. I feel really comfortable," said Hagar. Her songs often reflect her life as a high school student. "I write about the good and the bad," said Hagar. "About keeping a smile on your face and looking towards the future." Hagar has a lot of confidence to match her extreme talent. She knows who she is and it reflects in her playing. It's no surprise she was picked for this competition and no surprise she was awarded the second place "Best of Show" award. For Hagar, however, playing mu-



Above: Laura Hurtado, 11, sings "Run" by Leona Lewis, while her brother, Santiago Hurtado, 8, dances to Michael Jackson's "Billy Jean," June 4.

sic isn't about the awards or recognition. "It's more about having fun with what you're doing rather than worrying about who's sitting in the audience," she said. And the fun reflected on stage for all competitors. They danced and sang, gabbed and giggled. Hurtado and Santiago stood bright-eyed on stage as they were announced the first and third place winners, respectively. "My parents said they are proud of me and my brother because of our gifts," said Hurtado. "We make people happy with our talents and that's a gift from God." During the adult portion of the Europe's Got Talent event, held later that evening, the three children gave encore performances to a cheering crowd. "I like the attention," said Santiago.

## Preventing sexual assault is everyone's business

By Nick D'Amario  
*U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Public Affairs*

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), about two-thirds of sexual assault victims in the United States knew their assailants. In the military, where victims of sexual assault were acquainted with their attackers, this also accounts for the majority of incidents. "In addition to most cases involving an acquaintance, the majority of sexual assault incidents in the Army involve the consumption of alcohol and takes place in a residence such as a hotel room, barracks or home," said Frank Pavone, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr sexual assault response coordinator, or SARC. Sexual assault is mostly defined as intentional, nonconsensual sexual contact characterized by the use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority. "As the garrison SARC, I am responsible for ensuring all units' Soldiers receive annual, mandatory sexual assault awareness and response training," said Pavone. Additionally, Pavone trains Soldiers as unit victim advocates, or UVAs, within battalion and brigade-sized organizations. These UVAs are trained to quickly respond in assisting a victim of sexual assault while working closely with Pavone to ensure the most comprehensive and effective response to an incident of sexual assault. UVAs are also embedded within deploying units, such as the 172nd Infantry Brigade. Soldiers aren't the only community members who receive training on sexual assault prevention and response. The SARC also has a regimen of training which he provides to family members at FRG meetings, and at deployment and reintegration briefings. "Prevention and response is something everyone in the community should be involved with," said Pavone. In addition to the training, Pavone also attends a monthly Sexual Assault Response Board, or SARB, which is convened by the USAG Grafenwoehr commander, Col. Vann Smiley, each month. The SARB provides executive oversight, procedural guidance and feedback concerning the sexual assault prevention and response program, and is attended by professionals from the criminal investigations division, Army Substance Abuse program, military police investigations, medical care providers and the installation victim advocate. "A key to preventing sexual assault can start with our recognizing sexual harassment indicators that could lead to sexual misconduct or assault. "We are now remodeling the program to interface with other successful Army initiatives that will provide us with broader and even more effective approaches to preventing sexual assault at the earliest possible stages," said Pavone. Pavone's program comes under the Family Advocacy Program and is embedded with Rose Barracks' Army community Services operation. Pavone oversees all facets of the local implementation and execution of the Army in Europe Sexual Harassment and Assault / Assault Response and Prevention program, or SHARP, which is outlined at [www.sexual-assault.army.mil/links.cfm](http://www.sexual-assault.army.mil/links.cfm). Pavone is available 24/7 at the SHARP hot line number, DSN 476-3217.



# Recycling center needs help keeping Grafenwoehr green

Story and photo by  
**Capt. Brooks Hayward**  
*114th Public Affairs Detachment,  
New Hampshire National Guard*

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Since 1999 the recycling center at the Grafenwoehr Training Area has served to collect and transfer all waste products from Grafenwoehr, Rose Barracks, Garmisch and Hohenfels. Although the center has vastly decreased the U.S. military's impact on the environment, the efficiency of this program is dependent upon Soldiers and their families' active participation in the recycling program.

Nearly all of the waste produced on U.S. military posts in Bavaria can be recycled as long as it is sorted and placed in the proper containers. Soldiers and their families can bring sorted waste to the recycling facility, which is located across the street from Range 118 in the training area.

"We can take everything, but we need to sort everything," said Claus Engelhardt, an engineer technician at the GTA recycling center.

All nonrecyclable materials, known as refuse, are shredded before being transported to an incinerator, located in nearby Schwandorf.

The U.S. Army must pay 200 euros per ton. However, if the waste is not sorted, the amount of money spent increases exponentially.

"If we would dispose of all of the material without sorting it would cost over nine million dollars," said Helmut Buehler, the recycling program manager. "We do not have the bodies to do the sorting here," he said, referring to the enormous pile of unsorted refuse about to be shredded.

The additional cost is not only in transportation but in equipment maintenance. Metal mixed into the refuse cause extensive wear on the teeth of the shredder. Each cutting surface costs 50,000 euros, and the metal forces them to be replaced.

Recycling is required on post and in off-post housing areas.

If items aren't sorted, or placed into the containers, the military must pay the contractor an additional fee or bring it to the recycling center on post unsorted.

Recycling is complicated by different standards in different communities, and a new link will show all the guidelines for each county, said Buehler.

Buehler went on to elaborate about his role in educating Soldiers



**Sp. Ricardo Hurtado, 574th Quartermaster Support Company, heaves an old tire into the storage container at the Central Recycling Facility at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.**

and how the programs are enforced.

"We are here to do the utmost to have trash separation tables available to the people to have recycling guides," said Buehler.

"It is under the commanders' control," said Buehler. "We are here to give them the advice, to give them information about how the sort program works, but for corrective action, the chain of command and the installation coordinators are responsible."

Off-post housing areas are monitored by the Polizei. Soldiers in the past, both on and off post, have received punishment, under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, for offenses.

Although it requires some addi-

tional effort from Soldiers and their families, the amount of sorted waste has improved considerably.

When the program began in 1999, only 29 percent of all recyclable materials were separated, far below the 50 percent mandate AR 420-1, the regulation governing recycling, calls for. Currently 61 percent of materials are recycled.

By raising awareness and educating people about proper sorting the training area's recycling center has made great gains to minimizing its nonrecyclable waste. Although this is a considerable improvement, there are still ways of increasing efficiency.

"We could do better to save money," concluded Buehler.

## Radio program brings info straight to Soldiers

By U.S. Army Europe  
*News Release*

HEIDELBERG, Germany — Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel's favorite part of his job is talking to Soldiers. But even the U.S. Army Europe command sergeant major can only be in one place at one time.

So, to make the most of that time, the American Forces Network-Europe has started a new radio feature called "Straight from the CSM."

"Straight from the CSM" is a two-minute radio spot that will air Wednesday mornings at 6:18, 7:18, and 8:18 a.m., and every Wednesday evening at 7:35 p.m.

on AFN's AM PowerNetwork.

Each week, Capel will discuss a new topic of importance to USAREUR Soldiers. Upcoming topics include retention and sponsorship, but the sky's the limit, Capel said.

"I'm always looking for ways to communicate with USAREUR Soldiers," he said. "I want to make sure Soldiers are getting the information they need to be successful, but I also want to hear from Soldiers."

Army in Europe Soldiers, civilian employees or family members who would like to suggest topics for upcoming "Straight from the CSM" radio shows can contact Capel via his "Ask the CSM" blog at askthecsm@eur.army.mil.



## Body surfing

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Chloe Pomele performs a cultural Samoan dance called the Tauluga during the Pacific Asian American celebration held at Dickhaeuter Lake, June 4. More than 300 community members attended the event to celebrate the unique cultures with food, dance, music and games.

*Photo by Molly Hayden*

# Motorcyclists are at home on the range for safety day in Garmisch

Story and photo by  
**John Reese**

*USAG Garmisch Public Affairs*

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN — Take two types of two wheelers of two age groups, two safety events, and two days of fun, and you have the 2nd USAG Garmisch Motorcycle Safety and Bicycle Safety Days.

For the first event, Safetyman Andy Tuerk gathered 17 community bikers together May 21 and bicyclists June 3, respectively, and with the generous help of volunteers set up the second Garmisch second Garmisch MSD and Poker Run. The motorcyclists brought a number of friends and family to the Artillery Kaserne parade ground to watch the bikers perform inspections and demonstration their riding skills. Like last year, the event was held on a sunny Bavarian morning. Thunderstorms forecast for the day didn't arrive until well after it was over.

"This turned out even better than last year's; all of the people who registered showed up. It's a good turnout for us," said Tuerk. "The forecast called for rain, and it did rain a few hours after we finished."

Shortly after the canopies, tables and benches loaned by Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation were in place, a steady stream of Ameri-



**Bernadette Houston from Housing edges out Mike Quinn from DPW Roads & Grounds in the slow race. Quinn was behind, thus in the lead, when his engine stalled and Houston won the heat.**

can, German and Japanese motorcycles lined up on the safety range. As at any biker event, the mixture of different people and motorcycle nationalities automatically began by studying each other's rides for style, accessories and dead bugs, trading friendly barbs about the pros and cons of makes and models. The event had a family festive feel to it with the nonriders in attendance.

The bikes went through a TCLOCK inspection checklist (tires, controls, lights, oil, chassis and kickstand) courtesy of MSF rider-coach Tony Ceraolo, a volunteer who rode down from Wolfratshausen to participate.

"I just now learned I have a burned out low-beam headlight because I did

my TCLOCK inspection," said Ceraolo. "For safety, always check your motorcycle before you ride."

After the inspection some bikers paused to adjust their tire pressure at the Exchange gas station before riding to the Eibsee, Walchensee, Kochelsee and Ohlstadt to collect poker cards. The ride took about two hours through scenic Alpine valleys.

Garmisch vehicle inspector Andy Biersack again drew the best hand in the poker run. After lunch and for the second year in a row he also won the slow race competition. During his first slow race elimination heat, Biersack's BMW stalled; his competitor was Uli Schultz, a local car and motorcycle driving instructor favored to win. Schultz accelerated off of the

course thinking his win was assured, an assumption shared by everyone except Biersack. However, to everyone's surprise, Biersack was able to restart his impercivibly moving bike in time to avoid putting a foot on the ground.

"I seriously thought Andy lost that heat," said Tracey Stockwell, Exchange New Car Sales and slow race starter and judge. "When his bike stalled I thought it was all over, and I was about to declare Uli the winner when Andy recovered."

Lunch was sponsored by the commissary and the Garmisch Community Club. Prizes and poker cards were provided by Garmisch's Exchange New Motorcycle Sales and FMWR, respectively. FMWR also loaned the use of the tables and canopies. Further assistance came from the Directorate of Logistics and Public Affairs.

### Kids' turn

On sunny June 3 it was the kids' turn to ride. For the second year in a row, Safetyman conducted a sophisticated bicycle safety course complete with working traffic signals and real law enforcement personnel, both Polizei and military police.

"We do this in cooperation with the Exchange and the local Polizei's Jugendverkehrsschule (youth traffic

# Garrison honored for enviro-excellence

By James Williams  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON — The Army and Air Force cleaned up at the 2011 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Ceremony at the Pentagon, June 8.

Two Army installations and two Army teams received awards for outstanding achievements in conserving and sustaining natural and cultural resources.

The Air Force won four awards as well, and the Defense Logistics Agency garnered one.

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr won for environmental quality for an overseas installation. Some of Grafenwoehr's achievements include removing 546 pounds of ozone-depleting substances, implementing a garrisonwide recycling system using pictograms and photos and saving nearly half a million dollars through the German Forest Service's erosion control and environmental mitigation projects.

"If you have a good partnering program, you can more support military requirements," said Manfred Rieck, chief of the environmental division at Grafenwoehr.

By partnering with the German Forest Service, Rieck said Grafenwoehr was able to create environmental mitigation projects and react immediately to the Army's training needs.

The installation has a mitigation account with a monetary value of more than \$2.2 million, which can now be used to fund military construction projects.

Dr. Dorothy Robyn, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations & environment, presented the awards to the nine winners. Robyn said, "The Department protects the environment on our installations, not only to preserve irreplaceable resources for future generations, but to ensure that we have the land, water and air space we need for military readiness."

The panel of judges that selected the installations, teams and individuals as the winners of this year's awards represent federal and state agencies, academia and the public.

safety school) bicycle safety program for kids," said Tuerk. "The children have a lot of fun and learn how to bicycle safely on city streets."

More than 40 students from Garmisch Elementary-Middle School spent about two hours riding the course chalked onto the commissary parking lot. Some cyclists who came upon the fun joined in to ride the simulated city traffic pattern. German children are obliged to take an eight-hour bicycle safety class with a test at the end; this was an abbreviated version. MPs and Polizei-hauptkommissar Hubert Schweiger, a senior Polizei officer in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, offered friendly corrections to kids who violated traffic laws.

When the course closed, Exchange manager Annette Montgomery treated the participants to hot dogs.

"It's important to support these lessons so our children learn to good safety habits," said Montgomery. "This is our second year supporting this training. The Exchange is glad to be a safety partner."

The ongoing 'Fight the Risk' safety campaign stresses that children are the weakest group in traffic, and this can be seen in the many bike accidents of schoolchildren ages 10-16, said Tuerk.



# Rivers takes reins at 69th Signal Battalion

Story and photo by  
**Jeremy S. Buddemeier**  
*Managing Editor*

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Soldiers and family members braved overcast skies at the parade field here, June 14, to witness the 69th Signal Battalion’s change of command ceremony. Luckily, the rain never came. After serving as commander for two years, Lt. Col. Earl S. Nakata relinquished command to Lt. Col. Wendy L. Rivers. Col. John K. Arnold, commander, 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, presided over the ceremony. During his speech Nakata thanked his Soldiers, civilians and local nationals for their outstanding support during his tenure as commander. “It has been my honor and privilege to be your commander. I know you will continue to make the 69th

the best battalion in the Army,” Nakata said. Likewise, Rivers expressed her gratitude to the Soldiers and mentors who taught her “how to be, know and do,” as she developed in her career. “I look forward to commanding this battalion, meeting spouses and family members, volunteering a hand to our German partners and community leaders, and best of all, serving our customers and warfighters who train here and fight across the globe,” she said. Headquartered in here Grafenwoehr since 2000, the battalion maintains information systems and services, and provides continuous support for the Joint Multinational Training Command. Its footprint encompasses more than 20,000 square kilometers and the unit supports 70 percent of U.S. Army Europe’s combat brigade personnel.



**Lt. Col. Wendy L. Rivers stands in front of the color guard after assuming command of the 69th Signal Battalion from outgoing commander Lt. Col. Earl S. Nakata, June 14.**

# Uniform changes make patrol cap default headgear

Implementation date for USAREUR units is expected soon

By **C. Todd Lopez**  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON — The voice of the Soldier has been heard: the Army announced the patrol cap will replace the black wool beret as the default headgear for the Army combat uniform. Also changing are the options for how Soldiers can attach certain items to their ACU shirts. Army Chief of Staff Martin E. Dempsey said Soldiers will soon be able to sew on name tapes, service tapes, rank insignia and skill badges, instead of using Velcro. The changes were made after Dempsey received input from Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, who had been tasked to gather opinions from Soldiers in the field. The beret has been the standard headgear for the Army’s ACU — the camouflage uniform worn by most Soldiers. But most Soldiers still needed to switch to the patrol cap based on the work they were doing — in a motor pool or in the field, for instance. Those Soldiers would have to carry two pieces of headgear with them, one in each pocket, and switch depending on what they was doing. In the field, they put on the patrol cap. Back on base, they’d have to switch to the beret. The new policy will make the patrol cap the standard. But the beret isn’t going anywhere. It will remain as the standard for the Army service uniform, and as an optional uniform item with the ACU — at the discretion of commanders. The announced changes were scheduled to take place June 14; however, Soldiers should consult their chain of command and read Army Directive 2011-11 for full details.

# Experienced spouses reach out to newcomers

Story and photo by  
**Audra Alexander**  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — How did you arrive in Schweinfurt? Did it involve a sleepless, 12-hour red-eye flight from the U.S.? How about fussy kids and bad airplane food? A long wait at baggage claim followed by a longer wait for a bus ride to Conn Barracks? For many Army family members, the excitement of arriving in Germany is quickly eclipsed by fatigue from complicated travel, worry over accommodations and the frustrating hurry-up-and-wait syndrome that permeates military organization. All this assumes, of course, that the PCS went according to plan and as most of us know, that’s unlikely. First impressions are lasting impressions, and that is why the Schweinfurt Community worked together to develop the Spouse Sponsorship Program. Implemented by Army Community Service with critical support from dedicated volunteers and the



**Volunteer spouse sponsors Denita Fox, Ashley Copland, Dawn Bateman and Tina MacDonald (standing) share a laugh as the discussion turns toward PCS experiences during a recent Newcomers Meet and Greet at the Conn Club.**

garrison, the program works to ensure a smooth transition for families of Soldiers, beginning the minute they disembark the bus at Building 40. Volunteers form an outreach team that meet the bus arriving at the installation twice daily at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. from the airport. While Soldiers receive basic in-processing information, families are warmly welcomed with friendly smiles and crucial information to get them through the first couple of days on their new post. “When you first get here, it’s green-suiters everywhere,” Denita Fox, a spouse sponsor and volunteer coordinator, explained. “It’s nice to see a spouse who just wants to help.” In addition to providing information, volunteers collect contact and unit information from the families so that a follow-up contact can be

made within 24 to 48 hours. This always includes an invitation to the weekly Newcomer Spouse Meet and Greet held at the Conn Club, where an informal and social setting provides an opportunity to have questions answered and be assigned a spouse sponsor, if they choose. Transportation can be arranged if the family is lodged off post. Children are welcome to attend with their parents. Tina MacDonald, a program volunteer and member of the Schweinfurt Community and Spouse’s Club, led the discussion at the June 7 Meet and Greet. “Our goal is to get you pointed in the right direction and get you excited about Europe.” To this end, MacDonald asks the sponsors to share a goal for their time in Europe. When answers range from Disneyland, Paris to skinny dipping in the Riviera, the ice is quickly broken. In addition to providing a folder filled with garrison and community information, introductions are made among both newcomers and sponsors, as well as support personnel in the form of Family Readiness Support Assistants and Military and Family Life Consultants. An information card and a Family Challenge card are used to facilitate the introductions, as well as help sponsors address key issues for which each family requires assistance. Citing their own difficult transitions into Schweinfurt, marked by isolation and frustration, volunteer spouses in the program are highly motivated. They are determined not to let another newcomer fall through the cracks. The Spouse Sponsorship Program has many volunteer positions available, ranging from sponsorship (7- to 10-day commitment) to simply making phone calls. Interested community members are invited to sit in on a Newcomer Spouse Meet and Greet, held at the Conn Club every Tuesday at 10 a.m., or call ACS for a training schedule at 09721-96-6933/6751. *Editor’s Note: Audra Alexander is a volunteer at USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs.*

# Hertling pays visit to Marshall Center

By **Jason Tudor**  
*GCMC Public Affairs*

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany — Training soldiers from other nations and helping leaders from partner countries is the primary mission of U.S. Army Europe going forward and the Marshall Center is a critical part of that, according to its commander. Army Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling visited the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, May 23. This is his third visit here, his first in 2001. He toured facilities and met with center director, retired Army Lt. Gen. Keith W. Dayton. “The Marshall Center complements (our mission) significantly,” Hertling said. “It is focused on the strategic aspect of building partner capacity; improving transformation and helping people in other countries provide security and stability for their nations.” In 2010, the Marshall Center taught in-residence courses to about 900 people from 144 countries around the globe, including the 51 countries within U.S. European Command. During conferences and outreach events, the center also connected with better than 8,000 of its worldwide alumni. Hertling, who formerly oversaw operations for the five re-

gional centers, said the Marshall Center has been able transform its role as Europe and Eurasia has transformed. “I think we’ve got a very good synergy between my organization and the Marshall Center,” he said. “There is some great potential for (the Marshall Center) to move forward even more. When you look back, we’ve come a long way. There’s conflict in a lot of areas we never thought would see conflict. Also, the types of conflicts are changing, even though the nature of war and security stays the same.” U.S. Army Europe has also evolved through the years. During the 1980s, the U.S. stationed as many as 230,000 Soldiers in Europe. Today, Hertling said that number is about 42,000 “which is more than the three brigades that people keep talking about in the force posture review.” The 44-year Cold War is long since gone and the evolution of building partner capacity remains. “We’re engaged with preparing forces for combat, which we’ve done really well over the past 10 years,” Hertling said. “We’re also helping to build coalition capacity.” Hertling noted that coalition forces are still engaged in Kosovo, played a significant role in Iraq and continue to provide 85 percent of forces to NATO’s International Secu-

rity Assistance Force in Afghanistan. “The requirements for EUCOM, U.S. Army Europe and the Marshall Center are critically important to help build that capacity so that we fight as coalitions,” he said. “If you’re going to say that conflicts of the future will be coalition events, then you can’t just put them together on the fly. You have to build trust and confidence.” A part of building that trust and confidence are values. Hertling has taken to the military airwaves and gone on foot to talk about them. He said his organization has been on a “rapid treadmill” with a “huge operational tempo” and an everyday incorporation of those values may be “rusty.” He’s out to fix that. “We would be good to remind ourselves what these values mean and how they contribute to our lives. We’ve had some violations over the past couple of years in combat where values were not at the forefront,” Hertling said. “We need values at the forefront, in our day-to-day lives, in garrison environments, in and out of uniform.” Hertling said he hopes the conversation between his Soldiers is steered in that direction. “We want to talk about honor, integrity and selfless service. If we get our Soldiers talking about those values, it will be critically important,” he concluded.



Photo by Mark Iacampo

# World Cup 2024

HOHENFELS, Germany — Devin Lopez-Silvia (red jersey, center) prepares to belt the ball in a friendly matchup between the Hohenfels Child, Youth and School Services soccer team and the local German Hohenfels club. School Age Center director Bradley Schmid said the game was intended to help foster the relationship between the military and the local communities while providing the CYSS children an opportunity to play some club teams in Germany. “Normally we only play children that are enrolled in the CYSS sports athletic teams. This gives us another avenue to play other teams and get a little bit more competition in there,” said John Kern, coach.



Congratulations Hohenfels High School Class of 2011



Photo by Brandie Thrasher

**HOHENFELS, Germany** — The Hohenfels High School graduating class of 2011 is all smiles after proudly marching down the aisle with pomp and circumstance to receive their diplomas, June 10.

**Back row, left to right** are Baryn Taitague, Maria Flores, Christina Robinson, Ariel Cassidy, Kimberly Kelley, Desirae Black, Morgan Roberts, Keelia Taylor, Chelsea Streets, Madelyn Helbling, Natalie Cole, David Devin

**Middle row:** Daniel Cochran, Sung Kim, Drew Martin, Andy Mulvihill, Patrick Junior, Nick Dominguez, Jamie Tompkins, Leon Atkins, Chris Feyjoo-Sanchez, Kurtis Conklin, Anthony Hunt, Steven Orona

**Front row:** Ian Sellers, John Aber, Layne Headrick, Kayla Rausch, Carissa Anderson, Emily Barnett, Eboney Leavitt (salutatorian), Meagen Dunleavy (valedictorian), Jeff Redden, Alex Longo, James Cochran

**Not pictured** are Madelene McDonald, Keyerra McRae, JJ Calhoun

Happy Birthday Army



Photo by Gertrud Zach

**GRAFENWOEHR, Germany** — (from right) U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr’s Command Sgt. Maj. William Berrios, Col. Vann Smiley, commander, USAG Grafenwoehr; and Chaplain (Maj.) Stan Copeland, USAG Grafenwoehr family life chaplain serve cake to Soldiers and family members during the Army’s 236th birthday celebration at the Main Post Dining Facility, June 14.



Photo by Jeremy S. Buddemeier

With help from Spc. Joseph Evans, (right, foreground) Spc. Billy Davis serves lobster to an eager patron during U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr’s Army birthday celebration, June 14. Diners were treated to steak, lobster and birthday cake.

What’s Happening?

Garmisch Briefs

**Lake Garda**  
July 1-4: Cooking classes in an Italian villa overlooking Lake Garda. Great for spouses or friends.  
A meandering drive back home to Garmisch Monday through the Dolomites, stopping at wine markets along the way. Cost: \$575.

**Zugspitze**  
July 7-8: At 2,966 meters, Germany’s highest peak is 2,200 meters higher than Garmisch! Starting at the Partnachklamm, we hike up through the stunning Reintal valley, staying the night at the Reintalangerhuetten.  
Sunday morning we will be serenaded with Zither music, and then we climb to the Zugspitz-platt glacier. Get a great lunch or scale the harrowing “klettersteig” to the cross. Cost: \$149.

**Night rodelbahn**  
July 9: Experience the longest rodelbahn in Germany, three kilometers in length, 68 curves, 23 waves, 7 jumps, and 4 bridges! Tickets include gondola ride, rodelbahn and a schnitzel dinner. Cost: adults \$45; ages 6-14, \$35; under age 6, \$5.

**Bohemian beers**  
July 15-17: Prague is one of the top ten places to visit in the old world. Enjoy a daytime tour of Prague Saturday and a special guided tour of the Franz Kafka Museum. This tour departs at 4:15 p.m. Cost: \$270.

**Venice & Verona**  
Aug. 5-7: On Saturday, visit Venice with its great art and architecture, pigeons in St. Mark’s Square, gondolas, and good food.  
On Sunday, it is off to Verona and a tour of the Romeo and Juliet city with the great Roman Arena. Trip departs Friday, Aug. 5 at 4:15 p.m. Cost: \$290 (museum entrances, food, and public transportation extra). Unless noted, all FMWR events meet at the Pete Burke Center. To register for

the events contact the staff at the Pete Burke Community Center, DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638, or e-mail us at Garmisch.FMWRodr@us.army.mil.

Graf/Rose Barracks Briefs

**Virtual Career Fair**  
June 23: Milicruit has announced their next virtual career fair. Why travel to some crowded job far in some far away city, handing out your resume and being told to apply online? Avoid the brick and mortar job fair and attend a virtual career fair from the comfort and privacy of your own home. Register now at the Milicruit website [www.veterans-careerfair.com](http://www.veterans-careerfair.com). The virtual job fair is open to military members transitioning to a civilian career, veterans and military spouses trying to locate a job. There are already over 60 industry leading employers registered for this Job Fair who have signed on to hire veterans and military spouses specifically.

Registered attendees can go in at their convenience to build their profile, visit employer’s booths to research, view/apply for jobs and send recruiters messages directly before the career fair by simply visiting their booths. Be sure to let them know you stopped by their virtual booth in your message so they know where you came in from. You must have a resume uploaded on the day of the actual career fair if you wish to chat with recruiters. Milicruit can also be found on Facebook and twitter. For more, contact Wayne Potuznik at DSN 466-3685, CIV 09472-83-3685.

**Amberg-American Day**  
June 25: The city of Amberg is hosting an American Day to demonstrate its relationship with the American Soldiers and families stationed at Vilseck, Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Traditional Bavarian and American performances will blend together creating an atmosphere for all to enjoy. American customers can also enjoy special discounts in numerous shops lin-

ing the downtown area.

American participation is needed. It would be great to show support from units, schools, private organizations, children groups, scouts, bands, sports, G-A Kontakt Club, and other on-post organizations. For more, or to participate, contact Franz Zeilmann, CIV 09662-83-3507, DSN 476-3507 or cell 0162-2733340, or e-mail [franz.zeilmann@eur.army.mil](mailto:franz.zeilmann@eur.army.mil).

**Free piano concert**  
July 5: 6-8 p.m., Rose Barracks Cavalry Chapel. Join the chapel community for a free concert of sacred, classical and children’s songs.

Concert Pianist, Denine LeBlanc, will entertain Soldiers and Families on her European Concert Tour. The chapel will provide refreshments after the concert and free watch-care for children. For more, contact Capt. Jason Hesselung at DSN 476-1570, CIV 09662-83-1570, [jason.e.hesselung@eur.army.mil](mailto:jason.e.hesselung@eur.army.mil).

**First aid/CPR class**  
July 8: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The American Red Cross standard first aid with Adult and Child plus CPR infant training will help participants recognize and respond appropriately to cardiac, breathing and first aid emergencies.

The courses in this program teaches skills that participants need to know to give immediate care to a suddenly injured or ill person until more advanced medical personnel arrive and take over. For more, Rose Barracks Red Cross DSN 476-1760, CIV 09662-83-1760; Main Post Red Cross, DSN 475-1760, CIV 09641-83-1760 or <https://classes.redcross.org/Saba/Web/Main>.

**Army 10-Miler**  
July 9: Main Post Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center. The top six male and female Army runners will represent Army Europe at the Army Ten Miler Race in Washington D.C., Oct 9. Pre-register at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Grafenwoehrrectrac.html>. For more, DSN 475-8207, CIV 09641-83-8207 or [www.army-tenmiler.com](http://www.army-tenmiler.com). Open to all U.S.

ID cardholders — active duty military, DoD civilians, family members 18 years and older.

**Dental assistant class**  
Now accepting applications: The Vilseck American Red Cross, in conjunction with the Vilseck DENTAC, is offering free dental assistant training to military-sponsored ID cardholders. Training will begin July 11. Application packets are available at Vilseck Red Cross, Bldg. 162 or Grafenwoehr Red Cross, Bldg. 150. Packets and interviews are limited.

Trainees will be instructed in the skills necessary to manage a dental practice, dental radiology, dental anatomy, and sterilization of dental instruments. Upon completion of classroom learning, the course continues with a clinical section, to include patient chair-side time.

This is a fast paced, hands-on program in a working clinic. Attendance is critical for completion. Space is limited so have your application and interview skills prepared.

For more, call the Vilseck American Red Cross, DSN 476-1760, CIV 09662-83-1760; Grafenwoehr American Red Cross, DSN 475-1760, CIV 09641-83-1760.

Hohenfels Briefs

**Combatives competition**  
June 24-25: All Soldiers assigned to U.S. Army units in Bavaria are encouraged to register and compete in the 2011 Bavarian Open Combatives Competition sponsored by the Hohenfels Military Community June 24-25.

Registration must be completed and sent to [james.n.boston@eur.army.mil](mailto:james.n.boston@eur.army.mil) NLT June 21. Find the required forms on the JMRC Facebook page and sign up today.

**High Ropes course**  
June 25: The high ropes course is a fun and challenging experience for the whole family. Using harnesses, helmets, cables, ropes and wooden beams strung 20 to 50 feet high among trees and poles, teams will explore risk taking, trust and coaching. Whether you’re climbing,

encouraging others or on belay, each moment is full of adventure and discovery. Other attractions include a 15 meter high, two person swing and zip lining. Price is \$45 and includes transportation only. Course tickets range from 20-40 euro.

**Golf tournament**  
Aug. 12: The third golf tournament of the year will be held at the Hilzhofen Golf Course. The registration deadline is Aug. 9; only 18, four-person team slots available. The entry fee is \$75 (\$35 for cub members), golf cart rental and green fees are included in the price; 10-euro lunch will be optional. The first 10 teams to register will receive a free hand towel.

Check-in begins at 7 a.m. with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Register on WebTrac, [www.webtrac.mwr.army.mil](http://www.webtrac.mwr.army.mil), or stop by the gym to register and pay in person. For more information, e-mail Family and MWR Sports and Fitness at [dlmwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil](mailto:dlmwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil).

**Coaches needed**  
Youth Sports is looking for volunteers to coach the following fall sports: soccer, ages 3-15; tackle football, ages 12-14; flag football, ages 6-12; cheerleading, ages 6-15; bowling, ages 6-15. To find out how to become a coach, call Youth Sports located in Bldg. 94 at DSN 466-2558 or CIV 09472-83-2558.

**Kontakt club daytrip**  
July 24: Join Kontakt club members as they visit the Freedom Hall (1 hour) in Kelheim/Riedenburg followed by a boat ride along the Danube River (40 min.) to Kloster Weltenburg. Bring your own lunch and picnic by the river or at a meadow above the Kloster Weltenburg or enjoy delicious Bavarian food at the Klosterschaenke and its wonderful biergarten. You’ll have time in the afternoon to explore Weltenburg on your own or to do a little hike.

We meet at 9 a.m. at the Hohenfels Schiessstättkapelle in the village of Hohenfels. The price will be 8 euros per person and includes entrance to the Freedom Hall and boat ride. Call Andy Kirschenbauer at CIV 0176-80003950 or e-mail [andreas.kirschenbauer@us.army.mil](mailto:andreas.kirschenbauer@us.army.mil).

Schweinfurt Briefs

**Community Right Arm**  
Right Arm events are the old Army custom of spending an evening after work with ‘right hand’ folks who make the mission happen.

Join this one, June 22, at 4 p.m. at the Conn Club. For more, call the Family & MWR Business Operations Chief at 09721-96-6186.

**Schweinfurt Volksfest**  
June 24-29: This 10-day festival kicks off summer on the right foot. Traditionally a cooperative event between the U.S. Army and local Germans, the city of Schweinfurt has now taken the reins on the event that features two days of fireworks and numerous specially-themed days.

Half-price day is June 29, 2-6 p.m. The location is Volksfestplatz, the large area between Ledward and Askren.

**Community Org. Day**  
June 24: Community members are invited to eat food, play games and compete in organized sports at the Conn Club. Local national employees can escort four guests without advance permission.

Guests just need to bring a valid Personalausweis (ID). Note: Garrison facilities and services will be limited. Please call ahead.

**Climbing trip**  
Challenge yourself physically and mentally while climbing a natural rock formation. Cost per person is \$25 for equipment and transportation.

Trip leaves at 9 a.m. on June 25 from the Outdoor Rec. bldg. For more, call DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080.

**Fourth of July Fest**  
The community’s annual Independence Day Celebration is on July 4 at Kessler field featuring live music, rides, food and fireworks. Bring blankets, canopies and lawn chairs. No glass bottles or pets allowed.

Valid photo ID required for admission. All bags are subject to search. For more, call DSN 354-6762, CIV 09721-96-6762.





# DINKELSBUEHL

## Brimming with medieval charm

The Kleine Bastei is one of 16 towers in the wall of the historic town of Dinkelsbuehl. Today, the Kleine Bastei is part of an open air theater and is used by the actors during town plays and festivals. The Stadtgraben (water) below the trees is part of the former moat, which also served as protection for the town.

Story and photos by  
**Gini Sinclair**  
*U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach  
Public Affairs*

The Romantic Road runs from Wuerzburg in the north to Fuessen in the south of Germany. Along the way are three walled towns of Rothenberg ob der Tauber, Dinkelsbuehl and Nordlingen.

Dinkelsbuehl has retained most of the town walls and 16 towers built over the centuries as fortifications for a town at the crossroads of two major trading routes, the north-south Germany-Italy route and the route from the Rhine towns to Eastern Europe.

Today, the town stands at the crossroads of the Romantic Road and the German Holiday Route (a 2,000-kilometer route from the Elbe to the Danube).

A town of nearly 12,000 inhabitants, Dinkelsbuehl offers medieval

pageantry, modern amenities and rural activities. The nearly 300 lakes, ponds and rivers that surround the town make it a popular place for relaxing in the county.

Each year the town celebrates the saving of the town in the 1600s, during the Thirty Years War, with a children's parade. The Kinderzeche commemorates a time when the city was besieged and a kindergarten teacher gathered the children of the town to go and beg for the mercy.

The colonel leading the Swedish forces agreed and the city was saved. The festival is 10 days long with the third Monday in July being the main day of the celebration.

During the 10 days of the festival visitors will find Swedish mercenaries, beer fests, theater presentations and a parade that not only includes the children of Dinkelsbuehl, but adults as well.

The town center features houses and buildings from as early as the

14th century. The main feature of town is the Minster St. George, with a tower remaining from the 12th century. The rest of the church was built in the 14th century with changes up until the 1800s.

Across the street from the church is the Deutsches Haus built in the 16th century and serving today as a restaurant and hotel. This building, with a decorative half-timbered facade, is regarded as one of the most beautiful in southern Germany.

The Dinkelsbuehl Museum of local history and culture is located in the old town hall, which was built in 1361 and was originally known as the Stone House.

The museum has a famous cannon that was cast in Nuremberg, along with several copper kitchen utensils, engravings, paintings and local craft exhibits such as textile making and dyeing.

A farm house room holds furniture and popular art, a ceramics

room exhibits medieval vessels, tableware and china. A historical collection features weapons, armor and instruments of torture.

A Third Dimensional Museum is housed in the Municipal Mill, which dates back to the 14th century, and was built like a castle with a moat. In the 3-D Museum visitors can see holographic images and other digital imagery.

Dinkelsbuehl offers around 800 beds to travelers, including a youth hostel that is located in a Corn Storehouse built in 1508. In the vicinity of the town visitors can also find campsites that provide easy access to lakes, ponds and rivers for fishing, swimming and boating.

The tourist information office is located in the foyer of the museum of local history and culture. More information about the town can be found at [www.dinkelsbuehl.de](http://www.dinkelsbuehl.de), the website offers an English version of the text.



Above: The gothic church of St. George is one of the main features of the city of Dinkelsbuehl. The church was begun in the 12th century and building continued until the 1800s. Most of the present building is from the 1400s.

Far left: The Deutsches Haus, built in the 16th century, is considered one of the most beautiful in southern Germany.

Left: The Loewenbrunnen, Fountain on the Altrathausplatz has a column dating from the 16th century. An eagle holds the symbols of the city of Dinkelsbuehl and a Spanish coat of arms. This square is across from the old town hall and is used during the Kinderzeche as the spot where the kindergarten teacher and children plead for mercy from the Swedish mercenaries.





# Sun protection involves thinking ahead

By E. Wayne Combs

*U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional)*

Every spring and summer, Soldiers get painful sunburns that lead to time lost from duty and training. Even in the winter, Soldiers can get a sunburn and “snow blindness.” Also known as “welder’s flash,” snow blindness is a brief, painful swelling of the eyes.

If you have a fair complexion and light hair, you are especially at risk for skin damage from the sun. The sun can also hurt your eyes, so even Soldiers with dark complexions need to protect themselves.

## How should you protect your skin?

Use sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 30 or above that protects against both Ultraviolet A and Ultraviolet B rays. Reapply every few hours if you can. Don’t forget to apply sunscreen to your lips. Many lip balms contain sunscreen. Once opened, sunscreen loses its strength over a year, so replace your sunscreen at least once a year.

Get a waterproof sunscreen if you will be sweating a lot or will be around water. To protect your skin, you should also seek shade, use your uniform to cover your arms and legs, and wear a wide-brimmed hat when possible to protect your head and neck.

## How should you protect your eyes?

Wear sunglasses that provide 100 percent UV protection (UVA and UVB). Sunglasses do not have to be expensive to protect well. Wrap-around shades work the best. Wide-brimmed hats also help. Use goggles in snow-covered areas.



## When should you protect yourself?

The sun is strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Use the rule “Short Shadow? Seek Shade!” If your shadow is shorter than your height, you can get a light sunburn in about 35 minutes. But when your shadow is twice as long as your height, it would take about 90 minutes for you to get that same light sunburn.

Pay attention to the UV Index. The UV Index informs the public of the level of UV exposure expected on a given day. It is reported as a prediction of the UV level at noon, although the UV level rises and falls as the day progresses. As of May 2004, the UV level is being reported using a scale of 1 (low) to 11 and higher (extreme). There is also a new color scheme, revised exposure categories, and different break-points. The color scheme ranges from green

(for low) to violet (for extreme). A guide to the new UV Index can be found at [www.epa.gov/sunwise/doc/uviguide.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/doc/uviguide.pdf).

## First Aid

There is no quick cure for minor sunburn. Symptoms can be treated with aspirin, acetaminophen (Tylenol), or ibuprofen (Motrin) to relieve pain and headache and reduce fever. Drinking plenty of water helps to replace fluid lost.

Cool baths or the gentle application of cool wet cloths on the burned area may also provide some comfort. Workers with sunburns should avoid further exposure until the burn has resolved. A topical moisturizing cream, aloe, or a low-dose (0.5-1 percent) hydrocortisone cream, which is sold over the counter, may also help ease the pain and speed up the healing.

If blistering occurs, lightly bandage or cover the area with gauze to prevent infection. The blisters should not be broken, as this will slow the healing process and increase the risk of infection. When the blisters break and the skin peels, dried fragments may be removed and an antiseptic ointment or hydrocortisone cream may be applied.

Seek medical attention if any of the following occur: dehydration; high fever (greater than 101 degrees Fahrenheit); extreme pain that persists for longer than 48 hours or severe sunburns covering more than 15 percent of the body (more than just the forearms and lower legs.)

For more information on sunburn or to view a burn chart, go to: E Medicine Health, [www.emedicinehealth.com/burn\\_percentage\\_in\\_adults\\_rule\\_of\\_nines/article\\_em.htm](http://www.emedicinehealth.com/burn_percentage_in_adults_rule_of_nines/article_em.htm).



# Fireworks safety is in your hands

## National Fireworks Safety Month stresses safe fun

By Chris Ayres

*U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional)*

Although fireworks are a fun and exciting way to celebrate our nation’s freedom, they can also be harmful or even deadly. According to [Fireworksafety.com](http://Fireworksafety.com), malfunction and careless use of fireworks result in nearly 10,000 injuries every year. More than 65 percent of all fireworks-related injuries occur during the month of July. Of those, more than half are to hands, fingers, and eyes. The most common fireworks that cause injury are firecrackers, bottle rockets, Roman candles, fountains, and sparklers.

This year let’s bring down that number of injuries by following these safety tips:

- Never use fireworks in your home. Always set them off outside on a driveway or sidewalk.
- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- Always have water handy. (A hose or bucket).
- Be aware of other people around you and make sure they are out of range of the firework you are using.
- Never point or shoot fireworks at another person.
- Use common sense. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should wear safety glasses.
- Do not try to reignite a “dud” as it could explode near your hands or face.
- Only light one at a time.
- Do not try to make your own fireworks.
- Never drink and use fireworks at the same time.

Remember to make smart decisions when using fireworks and to take proper precautions as indicated on the labels. If you, or someone with you, is injured due to fireworks; seek immediate help or dial 114. Fireworks safety is in your hands, and it is your responsibility as a Soldier to not risk injury. Let us make it through this Independence Day weekend with no injuries to our Soldiers!

# Healthy fathers are healthy role models, too

By Theresa K. Jackson

*U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional)*

“My father didn’t tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.” — Clarence Buddington Kelland (1881-1964)

This statement is certainly true in the Army. If you ask a sample of Soldiers why they chose to join the military, many say they wanted to serve their country or protect our freedoms. Others suggest it was because one or both of their parents were in the military.

Given that nearly 50 percent of military children consider entering the military, we know that children of Soldiers learn from their parents’ commitment to their country. But what are they learning from their parents, and particularly their fathers, about health?

Think back. When you were a child, who made your doctor’s appointments and took you to the doctor? Who ensured you had your immunizations? Who encouraged you to eat your broccoli and prevented you from eating french fries at every meal? For some, it was dad. For most, it was mom.

The Men’s Health Network suggests there is a silent health crisis today among U.S. men, which begins in childhood. Our society

often discourages healthy behaviors in men and boys. Men are told to “suck it up,” or “take it like a man.” If something hurts, we tell our males to push through the pain. We reward men for being tough and ignoring their aches, pains and feelings.

It may not be surprising, then, that once they are adults men make half as many appointments as women with health care professionals. They are also more likely to engage in risky behaviors like tobacco use and alcohol abuse and are less likely to seek help if something is bothering them.

Sadly, this leads to negative health outcomes later in life. Men live five years less than women, on average, and are more likely than women to die of heart disease, cancer, injuries, stroke, lung disease, diabetes, HIV, suicide and homicide — just to name a few.

We need to help our children, learn that health is everyone’s issue. Therefore, this Father’s Day and every day, we encourage all Army dads to lead by example. Let our 570,000 Army children see our men in uniform take charge of health by remembering the acronym F.A.T.H.E.R.:

*Fight the silent men’s health crisis.* Talk to your buddies about health issues, and advocate for your health and your friends’ health.

Challenge the norms suggesting that manly men push through anything that bothers them.

*Always take care of yourself.* Pay attention to your body. When you don’t feel well, go to the doctor. If something is worrying you, talk to someone.

*Talk to your kids.* Communication is key between fathers and children. Strong emotional bonds are important to child development and family cohesion. Talking with your kids fosters a family unit that is safe, supportive and loving. Encourage your male children, in particular, to talk with you when they need to.

*Have fun with health.* Show your kids that health can be fun — for you and for them. Play catch, ride your bikes together, jump waves in the ocean or visit a farmer’s market. This doesn’t just keep your family active, it also allows you to spend time together and make positive memories.

*Encourage and engage in healthy behaviors.* Sometimes what we say and do are two different things. How many of us tell the children around us not to smoke or drink alcohol when we ourselves cannot follow that advice? Do your best to live a healthy lifestyle — exercise, get enough sleep, eat nutritious foods, limit your alcohol intake, avoid tobacco and

practice what you preach. Doing these things keeps you happier and healthier — which is good for you and your kids.

Remember you’re their role model. By making your own health appointments and attending theirs when you are home, you will teach your children that health is a man’s responsibility too.

By remaining physically fit, you teach your children that taking care of their bodies is important. Healthy children start with healthy parents.

There are nearly one million men in today’s Army and more than four out of 10 male Soldiers are parents. We encourage all our dads to live as F.A.T.H.E.R.s — and let your children watch you do it.

For more information on being a healthy father:

Men’s Health Network, [www.menshealthnetwork.org/library/silenthealthcrisis.pdf](http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/library/silenthealthcrisis.pdf)

Department of the Army, [www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/docs/demographics/FY10\\_Army\\_Profile.pdf](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/docs/demographics/FY10_Army_Profile.pdf)

Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, [www.deo-mi.org/contribute/DiversityMgmt/documents/AmericasMilitaryPopulation2004.pdf](http://www.deo-mi.org/contribute/DiversityMgmt/documents/AmericasMilitaryPopulation2004.pdf)

*Editor’s Note: Theresa K. Jackson is a public health scientist at the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional).*

# Goodman assumes command of BMEDDAC

By Jacqueline Parker

*BMEDDAC*

VILSECK, Germany — Col. Robert L. Goodman took command of Bavaria Medical Department Activity, June 10.

Brig. Gen. Nadja Y. West, commanding general of the Europe Regional Medical Command, presided over the ceremony. The symbolic moment of the transfer of command occurred when West took the guidon from the previous commander, Col. Steven L. Brewster, and handed it to Goodman.

“Recently serving as the U.S. Army Medical Command’s assistant chief of staff of the Program Analysis and Evaluation Directorate at the Office of the Surgeon General, Rob’s vast knowledge, grasp

of the issues that affect our health care systems today, and passion separate him from (everyone else),” West said. “You are very lucky to have someone of Rob Goodman’s caliber at Bavaria MEDDAC.”

“It is my privilege to return to this great organization and take command. (My wife) and I are honored, humbled and incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve at BMEDDAC. It is my goal to keep interacting to strengthen our long-standing friendships, in activities with our surrounding villages,” Goodman said.

No stranger to BMEDDAC, Goodman served as the deputy commander for administration when BMEDDAC was once known as U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Wuerzburg. Due to transformation

in the U.S. Army Europe, the USAMEDDAC Wuerzburg was officially renamed the USAMEDDAC Bavaria in June 2007 and moved from Wuerzburg to Vilseck.

As the commander of the USAMEDDAC Bavaria, Goodman is responsible for providing command and control for an ambulatory network of seven primary care health clinics throughout Bavaria that support more than 41,000 Soldiers and family members in the Bamberg, Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Illesheim, Katterbach, Schweinfurt and Vilseck communities.

Brewster will attend the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

*Editor’s Note: Jacqueline Parker is a host nation liaison with BMEDDAC.*



Photo by Gertrud Zach

**Col. Robert L. Goodman, left, accepts the guidon from Brig. Gen. Nadja Y. West, commanding general of the Europe Regional Medical Command, as outgoing BMEDDAC commander Col. Steven L. Brewster looks on during a change of command ceremony on Rose Barracks, June 10.**



By Lt. Col. Stephen Linck

*BMEDDAC*

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for sending your questions over the last year and a half. I hope you have enjoyed reading the Shot of Advice as much as I have enjoyed writing it. As all good things must end, this column is not one of them. Maj. Patrick Hartley will continue the tradition beginning next month. As a fellow boy nurse I am sure you will find him as helpful and insightful as me.

My wife and I are moving this summer so my last advice to all of you is “Take care of yourself.” You are no good to anyone else if you are sick or depressed. Once in a while treat yourself to something fun or special and recharge your batteries.

Again, thanks for your questions and support over months, especially the gentleman at the post office. I have enjoyed my time in Bavaria and will miss you all.

Thanks,  
Lt. Col. Stephen Linck



Linck



# JMTC trains on counterinsurgency

Story and photo by  
**Capt. Robert Burnham**  
*114th Public Affairs Detachment*

HOHENFELS, Germany — With more than 20 nations partnered in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, it is critical that each allied national military be versed in executing unified tactics to defeat insurgent networks in Afghanistan. These networks terrorize people and marginalize security, stability and government within the country.

To foster unity of effort among ISAF partners, the Joint Multinational Training Command, headquartered in Grafenwoehr, Germany, recently hosted a nine-day Counterinsurgency (COIN) training course, to increase the self-sufficiency of ISAF national militaries, in understanding and overcoming terrorist networks.

“We’ve come here to train the trainers with multinational forces to develop some inherent capabilities among NATO nations,” said course instructor U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Erik Wilkerson, currently assigned to the Counterinsurgency Training Center Afghanistan, “to train their own units on some of the counter insurgency principles that we teach in Afghanistan.”

Wilkerson and the course’s remaining instructors came directly from their assignments in Afghanistan to teach the nine-day course, bringing with them the most relevant and up-to-date information and trends on COIN operations in Afghanistan.

According to published U.S. Army doctrine, COIN operations involve the fracturing of possible links



**German army Col. Hermann Meyer, the deputy brigade commander for the 37th Mechanized Infantry, makes a comment during a Counter Insurgency (COIN) class. The class, which was run by instructors who are currently deployed at the COIN Training Center in Afghanistan, was attended by about 100 multinational soldiers from 20 different nations.**

between the insurgency and the civilian population. To mitigate insurgent influence, COIN procedures use military, governmental and nongovernmental responses, which work to restore security and the ability of local and national governance to provide for the needs of the populous.

“For me it’s been eye-opening on a professional level, to see the contributions of the NATO nations and it’s been very encouraging. Instability spreads, and we have a vested interest in preventing the spread of instability across Afghanistan and across the world,” Wilkerson said.

The geographical location of Ho-

hohenfels Training Area made JMTC the most suitable host for this international military conference, which was attended by numerous European military leaders. Currently, more than 80 percent of ISAF partners are European nations.

The participants in the course included more than 100 multinationals, who were officers and senior non-commissioned officers from NATO and ISAF nations. Many of the participants had partnered during COIN operations in unstable regions such as Afghanistan, Iraq and the Balkans.

German army Col. Hermann Meyer, deputy commander of the German

army’s 37th Mechanized Infantry Brigade said the training allowed for information and personal experiences to be shared which brought value and authenticity to the course.

“My brigade will conduct a one year rotation in Afghanistan starting in November,” Meyer said. “The training here, the content of this course has given me an extensive and accurate overview of the origins or promotable conditions for insurgency.”

Meyer intends to share the knowledge he gained from the course to better prepare his Soldiers and to empower Afghan National Army senior leaders he will soon advise.

In addition to the study of functional Afghan governance and rule of law to defeat terrorist networks, the course focused on the importance of understanding the cultural beliefs and practices of the Afghan people.

While leading a block of instruction on the pillars of stable societies, Wilkinson said, “It all begins with security; without security nothing else can happen. You can’t develop political systems, you can’t develop agriculture, and you can’t institute projects for reform to prevent the bad actors from coming in.”

“Military service is a great thing,” Wilkinson added. “Some think it’s all just about locating, closing with, and destroying the enemy; but there is a lot more to it. It’s about helping people across the full spectrum of operations, building trust and viable institutions that will last long after you’re gone, which will provide peace and stability that people really need to live their lives.”

## 55th AWAG Conference held in Garmisch

By Tracey Stockwell  
*Special to the Bavarian News*

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany — “Always working, always growing, celebrating 55 years of volunteer excellence” was this year’s motto for the 55th Annual American’s Working Around the Globe Conference at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort last month.

More than 500 volunteers from all over Europe attended the professional development conference. With the delegates dressed in “little black dresses,” evening gowns and tuxedos, the conference began with opening remarks from retired Lt. Gen. Keith Dayton, director of the Marshall Center, and motivational speaker Dr. Ron Archer. Music was provided by the U.S. Air Force Europe Band.

The delegates learned valuable skills that are fundamental in their designated volunteer communities. The conference provided a unique opportunity for volunteers to obtain training and guidance to govern their organizations more effectively as well as interact with members of their host nation.

The training workshops provided by AWAG are for all volunteers within the military community. Some of the courses taught were leadership, organization, coping with deployments and resiliency, what’s happening in DoDDS and Situational Leadership.

“Once you go to AWAG you are hooked. The delegates always try to find a way to come back,” said Holly Logiudice, editor of the European travel guide ‘Never a Dull Moment’ and an AWAG volunteer for five years.

This year Logiudice and Deborah Bowe, the United Kingdom area representative and assistant NADM editor, published the 13th edition of ‘Never a Dull Moment,’ which will be sold in the Exchange Bookmarks all over the world.

Dressed in attire from the 1940s until the modern day to celebrate the 55th anniversary, the conference closed with remarks from First Mayor Thomas Schmid of Garmisch-Partenkirchen and guest speaker Dr. Deborah Harris.

AWAG exists to train, strengthen and connect volunteers, their organizations and communities. AWAG consists of nine geographical areas to include Italy, the UK and the British Isles and will include Turkey, Japan and Korea soon. The organization is governed by an all-volunteer board of governors and honorary advisors from all of the geographical areas within the European command.

“It was truly an honor being able to lead this year’s board of governors to such a successful 55th anniversary AWAG Conference. We all volunteer because we believe in AWAG’s mission and the volunteers, we love our military communities and want to give back as much as possible whenever and wherever we can,” said Lorinda Risley, the 2011 AWAG chairperson and a five year AWAG volunteer. “Being given the chance to affect so many volunteers European wide has been a humbling and rewarding experience that I will carry with me forever.”

Risley thanked the many corporate contributors and spouses clubs without whose unconditional assistance and generosity the conference wouldn’t have happened.

“They know as we do that once you get a taste of what AWAG has to offer it becomes a part of you and have continued to be supportive,” said Risley.

To learn more about AWAG visit [www.awagonline.org](http://www.awagonline.org).

## Badger Team teaches up-to-date tactics for IEDs

Story and photo by  
**Staff Sgt. Whitney Hughes**  
*114th Public Affairs Detachment,  
New Hampshire National Guard*

HOHENFELS, Germany — An improvised explosive device does not identify victims by name or by face, and does not care what uniform a Soldier wears. IEDs are the favorite, most deadly, weapon of insurgents in Afghanistan, and knowing how to defeat them is one of the most important tasks a Soldier from any country serving with the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan will face.

This is why at the Hohenfels Training Area, the Joint Multinational Training Command’s Badger Team, a specialized team in charge of counter IED training, has created a course to teach multinational Soldiers skills integral to defeating IEDs in Afghanistan.

“Our multinational partners are the ones that are replacing some of the American Soldiers in theater, and a lot of the time you work hand-in-hand with our multinational partners. So we are actually trying to train them up so that they can go back to their countries and can eventually take the lead as they have already started to do in theater,” Sgt. Maj. Martin S. Celestine, the senior advisor for JMTC’s Badger Team.



**Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adrian Mendoza, intelligence mentor with the New Jersey National Guard, points in the direction of a possible improvised explosive device (IED) during a Counter-IED training lane at the Hohenfels Training Area. The C-IED training is an opportunity for U.S. and multinational Soldiers to collaborate on techniques used by Soldiers currently in Afghanistan to defeat IEDs.**

lestine, the senior advisor for JMTC’s Badger Team.

JMTC’s Badger Team first teaches students the most up-to-date tactics, techniques and procedures used by the enemy, and then gives them the challenge of negotiating a mock Afghan village and defeating several devices. The training is based upon not only the firsthand knowledge of the trainers who have all served in the Middle East, but also from information that comes weekly from units who are currently deployed to Afghanistan.

One of the units JMTC relies on is Task Force Paladin whose mission is to find and destroy IEDs, and is currently deployed to the Paktika Province of Afghanistan.

“These are actual scenarios that have already happened. So we are replicating incidents that have already happened in Afghanistan and doing it here in Hohenfels,” said Staff Sgt. Gustavo Hurtado, a counter IED trainer with the Badger team.

The value and relevance of this information is what makes training at the Hohenfels Training Area ideal

for Soldiers preparing for missions in Afghanistan, said Celestine.

An example of the implementation of this knowledge was a joint U.S. and Albanian Operational Mentor Liaison Team comprised of Soldiers who chose the C-IED at Hohenfels for part of their predeployment training. The team will soon partner together to train the Afghan National Security Forces near Kabul, Afghanistan, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adrian Mendoza, an intelligence mentor with the New Jersey National Guard OMLT.

“For me it is a predeployment situation, and it (the training) is very, very useful. Here I had the opportunity to learn the tactics, techniques and procedures that NATO uses (to defeat IEDs),” said Albanian army Lt. Andricel Hoxhalhi a logistical support officer for general staff with the Joint Operation Center. “It helps a lot because we had a lot of after-action reviews with the U.S., Bulgaria, Romania and a lot of other countries,” he added.

Both Hoxhalhi and Mendoza agreed that the training provided them with an invaluable opportunity to collaborate and learn to defeat a lethal opponent together, and they felt a greater sense of cohesion as a team going into the combat zone.

## 500th Eng. Company uncovers explosive ground

By Capt. Michael Johnson  
*15th Engineer Battalion Public Affairs*

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — “Normally, construction sites aren’t covered in explosives,” thought Sgt. 1st Class Michael Seelow, platoon sergeant. But as his platoon conducted its preventative maintenance checks and services, the construction site felt familiar and normal, despite the fact that construction was halted several times per day to clear and remove unexploded ordnance.

Throughout the month of March, Seelow’s platoon was given the challenge of constructing a demolitions range outside of Camp Buehring, Kuwait — after the site had already been in use for decades. The site originally housed a major military explosives

stockpile before the first Gulf War, until it was destroyed by Iraqi forces. The resulting explosion scattered UXOs throughout area, many have been covered by sand over time.

The task of reforming the scarred ground into a standardized detonation range fell to 3rd Platoon of the 500th Engineer Company, whose reputation for adaptability and working through harsh conditions fit the job perfectly. The mission directly supported the 319th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, a National Guard unit out of Washington.

“Safety is our first priority on any construction site, but it’s been especially important on this one,” said 1st Lt. Sarah Yates, 3rd Platoon leader. In addition to the standard protective equipment for construction, the platoon

is also required to wear full body armor at all times, and to have a spotter with each vehicle.

“The 319th EOD Company really went above and beyond in supporting us and ensuring our safety; they provided a dedicated medic, they had spotters for us ... We felt absolutely confident that we were in good hands throughout the mission.”

In addition to helping with safety precautions, the 319th also helped cross-train Soldiers on demolitions and explosives. The EOD Soldiers used this opportunity to teach some of 3rd Platoon’s equipment operators about proper explosives disposal and demolition skills. With these new lessons and a set of new experiences under its belt, 3rd Platoon continues to stay ready for any mission.



*Photo by 1st Lt. Sarah Yates*  
**Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, 500th Engineer Company, watch a controlled detonation of explosives, executed by a Kuwaiti Explosives Ordnance Disposal team.**



# Exhibit highlights German-American environmental stewardship

By JMTc Public Affairs  
News Release

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — A U.S. Army exhibit focusing on the environmental history of the Grafenwoehr Training Area is now on display beginning at the city of Grafenwoehr's Historical and Cultural Museum.

Nature's Defense: German-American Environmental Stewardship of the Grafenwoehr Training Area, uses historical maps, aerial imagery and photos to trace the evolution of land management within the borders of Grafenwoehr from 1910 to the present.

"It provides an excellent outlet for the U.S. Army in Europe to explain to the community — both German and American — the value we place on environmental compliance and stewardship," said Jeff Andrews, U.S. Army in Europe ITAM operations officer.

The exhibit was produced by the U.S. Army in Europe's Integrated Training Area Management program to highlight the partnership between the U.S. Army and the German local and federal governments in preserving Grafenwoehr's lands for both military training and the natural environment.

The exhibit also highlights the unique plant and animal species that thrive in the training area, many of which are endangered or have gone extinct in other parts of Germany.

Rather than destroy wildlife habitat, the military training on Grafenwoehr has actually led to unique environmental conditions that create opportunities for those species to survive, said Andrews.



Photo by Michael Beaton

**Olaf Meiler, curator of the Grafenwoehr Historical and Cultural Museum, previews the timeline of land management of the Grafenwoehr Training Area as part of a special U.S. Army exhibit highlighting the German-American environmental stewardship of Grafenwoehr's training lands, produced by the U.S. Army in Europe's Integrated Training Area Management program.**

vive, said Andrews.

"Disturbance to ecosystems — such as forest fires — is natural and has always existed," said Andrews. "On Grafenwoehr Training Area, that disturbance is caused by live-fire training and maneuver land management, resulting in a wide variety of ecosystems and high biodiversity."

All the historical maps and aerial imagery used in the display came from the archives of ITAM's Geospatial Information System (GIS) office in Grafenwoehr, which maintains topographical imagery for all U.S. Army in Europe training areas and ranges.

"One of the tenants of the ITAM

program is 'information excellence.'" Our GIS program ensures that we have the most accurate and up-to-date topographical information available to support land management decisions," said Andrews.

The environmental stewardship exhibit coincides with the city of Grafenwoehr's 650th anniversary this summer, and should remain on display at the museum through the end of the year.

The Grafenwoehr Historical Museum is open Tuesday-Thursday, and Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

To learn more about the museum, go to the website at [www.museum-grafenwoehr.de](http://www.museum-grafenwoehr.de)

# Census applies to some

By Brad Huestis  
JMTc Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The German government is currently conducting an EU mandated census to collect both population data "Haushaltebefragung" and information on German residential buildings "Gebäude- und Wohnungszählung."

The census will continue through the end of this summer and will repeat every 10 years.

Regardless of their citizenship, U.S. forces personnel, including dependents, are only obligated to comply with the residential buildings part of the census if they are the owner of the residence.

Off-post tenants living in rental units need not comply. Most of the information for the population portion of the census will be obtained from German public records.

Census takers will go to approximately 10 percent of the off-post residences to ask supplemental questions.

If you are visited by a German census taker, you should first insist that the interviewer produce proper identification, before you show the interviewer your ID card, and then politely turn the interviewer away.

This is allowed, because all personnel with SOFA status are exempted from participation in the population census under 2, paragraph 1, of the German Census Act, in connection with Article 6 and Article 7 of the Supplementary Agreement to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement.

Members of the U.S. forces, the civilian component, and their dependents who own German housing are subject to the residential building census.

The census questionnaire entitled "Gebäude- und Wohnungszählung" will normally come in the German mail to the off-post residential address.

This form must be filled out, ex-

cept for question W1 on page 3. Question W1 should be left entirely blank, unless the property is rented to a person without NATO SOFA status.

If the property is rented out to a non-ID cardholder, that person's information should go in block W1.

When answering question W9, mark the second alternative "Diplomatenwohnung/Wohnung der ausländischen Streitkräfte" unless the property is rented to a non-SOFA status person.

If the residence is rented out to a non-ID cardholder, mark the third alternative "keines von beiden."

An English translation of the "Gebäude- und Wohnungszählung" form can be found at: [https://www.zensus2011.de/uploads/tx\\_templavoila/Musterfragebogen\\_GWZ\\_englisch\\_02.pdf](https://www.zensus2011.de/uploads/tx_templavoila/Musterfragebogen_GWZ_englisch_02.pdf).

However, only the original German form should be completed and returned.

Note, failure to return the original German residential building census form can result in a heavy fine.

Any questions about the German census should be addressed to your local legal assistance office.

In Bavaria, legal assistance is available at Ansbach-Katterbach, 467-2103; Bamberg, 469-8832; Garmisch, 466-2401; Grafenwoehr, 475-7114; Hohenfels, 466-2401; Ansbach-Illesheim, 467-4576; Schweinfurt, 353-8384; and Vilseck, 476-2289.

General legal assistance information is also available on the Internet at: [www.hqjmtc.army.mil/Organization/Special\\_Personal\\_Staff/Staff\\_SJA/Staff\\_SJA\\_LegalAssistance.html](http://www.hqjmtc.army.mil/Organization/Special_Personal_Staff/Staff_SJA/Staff_SJA_LegalAssistance.html).

# Patrons: Beware of ESSO expirations

By The Exchange  
News Release



MAINZ-KASTEL, Germany — ESSO fuel cards are like any other debit or credit card and have an expiration date.

The expiration date is located on the front of the fuel card in the lower

right hand corner. To avoid interruption of service check the expiration date on the lower right hand corner and verify the month and year of expiration.

If your card has expired, return to a Fuel Card Issuing Location where the Exchange will replace your card. Fuel cards are valid for three years, and the expiration dates are not related to your vehicle registration date.

For more information contact your local Exchange customer service desk.

# Tax centers still open for business

By JMTc Office of the Staff  
Judge Advocate

News Release

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — This tax season, the eight JMTc tax centers in Bavaria filed 11,440 federal and state income tax returns, saved tax filers over \$1.7 million in commercial tax preparation fees and helped recover over \$22.3 million in refunds.

Although the overseas tax filing deadline of June 15th has passed, eligible members of the military community may continue to receive limited tax assistance at their local legal assistance offices through September 31, 2011.

This extended service is especially important for redeploying Soldiers and U.S. citizens living abroad and receiving income from foreign sources; for example, a retiree who now works for a non-DoD firm on the economy. This is because the IRS requires U.S. citizens to report all worldwide income. So, U.S. citizens must continue to file income tax returns, even if they live overseas and only receive income from foreign sources.

Filing and reporting does not necessarily mean taxes will be owed. There is a foreign earned income exclusion and foreign tax credits that can be used to prevent double taxation on foreign income. The foreign earned income exclusion allows taxpayers to deduct foreign earned income from their total income.

In 2010 taxpayers are allowed to exclude up to \$91,500. DOD and DA civilian employees cannot take advantage of this exclusion, because U.S. government employees do not qualify for the foreign earned income exclusion. The IRS requires that taxpayers file the past six year's tax returns, but has a 10 year statute of limitations on collecting back tax. The IRS also may charge penalties and interest on tax owed.

## Tax help is available

Ansbach/Katterbach: 467-2103

Ansbach/Illesheim: 467-4576

Bamberg: 469-8832

Grafenwoehr: 475-7114

Hohenfels: 466-2401

Schweinfurt: 353-8384

Vilseck: 476-2289

These penalties and interest may add up to more than your original tax bill. Therefore taxpayers should file missed or prior year tax returns as soon as possible to avoid these extra charges.

There are some special rules when filing late returns that include overseas income. For example, the foreign earned income exclusion normally can only be taken on a return filed by the due date, but late taxpayers can still use the exclusion on returns filed after the due date if they owe no federal income tax after tak-

ing the exclusion or, if tax is owed after taking the exclusion, the taxpayer files before the IRS discovers the late exclusion.

Taxpayers can only receive refunds for returns that were filed within three years of the due date, including extensions. So, whether taxpayers owe taxes or are due refunds, it is clearly better to take care of the problem as soon as possible.

In addition to reporting worldwide income, another significant requirement for U.S. citizens living and banking overseas is to report financial interests or signature authority over non-U.S. financial accounts. The deadline for reporting overseas accounts exceeding \$10,000 on any day in 2010 is June 30th, 2011.

Accounts in foreign countries include banks or other financial institutions in Germany, but do not include military banking facilities such as Service Credit Union or Community Bank. The form used to report foreign accounts is Treasury Department Form 90-22.1. It is filed separately with the U.S. Treasury Department office in Detroit, Michigan. There is no cost associated with filing the report, but the penalties for not reporting can be 25 to 50 percent of the value of the accounts.

For assistance with questions about preparing or filing late tax returns, reporting foreign bank accounts, or any other general tax questions, you may contact your local legal assistance office.



**The 2011 Soldier Show visits Oberammergau, Germany, May 29. The Soldiers performed for the NATO School, George C. Marshall Center and U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch community members. Locals from the town of Oberammergau were also invited.**

# Soldier Show is tops

Story and photo by  
OTL Lars Schadagies  
NATO School Public Affairs

OBERAMMERGAU, Germany — The Ammergau Haus in Oberammergau was the stage of the spectacular, cheerful and entertaining Soldier Show, May 29.

About 400 people from the Oberammergau Community, the NATO School, the George C. Marshall Center and the U.S. Garrison in Garmisch-Partenkirchen attended the show. The community of Oberammergau was also invited.

Twenty performers of the U.S. Army led the audience on a journey through space and time with a great variety of song and dance, including an amazing light and stage concept that took the audience to the middle of the scene.

Themes included a boardwalk, funhouse, circus, county fair, and even a time machine with music and dance from the United States, Africa, New Zealand, Latin America, Nepal (with influences from India), Thailand and China being represented. Literally, it was a multicultural musical.

Although the performers and five technicians who rehearsed the musical show in eight intensive weeks are laymen, they demonstrated brilliant musical and dance interludes. Vocals, a fiddle and drums were performed in a very professional way. Its power, speed and the actors' performance skills filled the audience with enthusiasm.

Col. Mark Baines, NATO School commandant, thanked the Soldier Show Team for their efforts and highlighted that this Soldier Show was something special since it took place during the Memorial Day weekend, an important U.S. holiday which remembers Soldiers who died in past wars. Sgt. 1st Class Chyntia Turner, who was in charge of the performance, was very grateful for the "great support and so many people coming" to visit this event.

Soldiers from different U.S. Army units will perform this show for another eight months until it concludes at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 10.

In total they will have preformed over 120 shows at 61 installations, garrisons and other places around the United States, Europe and Korea.



# Stars light up stage for Europe's Got Talent

Continued from page 3

who felt at ease in front of a crowd.

For family members Laquan "Lala" Martin and Ashley Cobb, representing Schweinfurt and Ansbach, respectively, and Grafenwoehr's own Staff Sgt. Darren McGraw, 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy, the first, second and third place winners, respectively, the stage is as comfortable as their living room couch.

"Singing makes me feel empowered," said Cobb, who sashayed across stage in true Broadway fashion while singing "Out Tonight" from the musical "Rent." "When I'm on stage, that's when I'm my best."

Martin agreed.

"It's just me up there," she said. "This is who I am."

Martin was awarded the "Best of Show" first place prize for her powerful spoken word piece called "Serving Time" about the perils of being a military spouse and mother, a position she says demands respect and understanding.

"My words come from here," added Martin, pointing to her heart.

Like Martin, McGraw's piece – a vocal rendition of "For all we know" by Donny Hathaway – also came from the heart, in honor of his grand-



**Pfc. Anthony Duffy-Welty, representing Schweinfurt, plays "Last Kiss," Wayne Cochran's 1961 song made popular by Pearl Jam.**

mother.

"The last time I attempted to sing this song was at her funeral about a year ago," said McGraw, adding at that time, he was too emotional to sing the song in its entirety. "This time I'm going to finish it."

McGraw has a voice that gives you chills and talent that is undeniable – and he does it all for the love

of music, something he learned from his grandmother.

"She raised me in the church and I started singing in the choir," said McGraw. "I don't plan; whatever comes out is a reflection of me."

Seventeen acts filled the stage that night, ranging from dancers and theatrical vocals to full musical ensembles, pianists, soloists and poets.

Although many were hoping for a win, the theme of the night seemed to revolve around having fun.

"If I mess up, I mess up – as long as I'm enjoying myself," said Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Williams, 30th Medical Command from Heidelberg, Germany. Williams sang Jon Bon Jovi's "Blaze of Glory" because he "likes to rock" and entertained the crowd with killer air guitar moves.

"It's been a fun night and I'm just happy to play," said Spc. Elliot Maben Gainers with the 172nd Support Battalion from Schweinfurt, Germany, who sang and played his own unique version of Tom Petty's "Free Fallin'."

"It was an experience," he added.

Experience – that's an exceptional word to describe the event. To experience is to personally observe, encounter, feel or undergo a particular moment. Whether you were a performer, audience member, journalist or all three – Europe's Got Talent was an experience.

For me, it was a learning experience – it was entertaining and humbling and an experience that reminded me just how talented our Army family is – and just how considerate they were to cheer after listening to a slightly off-key ukulele duo.



*Photo by Jeremy S. Buddemeier*

**Kara Huseyin from USAG Vienza and Capt. Michael Roesler, USAG Grafenwoehr, lead a pack of runners past a water station during last year's U.S. Forces Europe Army 10-Miler Qualifier Race at Grafenwoehr, July 10, 2010.**

## 10-Miler set for Graf July 9

Runners will vie for chance to represent U.S. Army Europe

By FMWR Public Affairs

*News Release*

SCHWETZINGEN, Germany — U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr will again host the annual Army 10-Miler qualifier, July 9, and the stakes are high. The top six U.S. Army men's and women's Soldier-runners who meet the qualifying times will be nominated to represent U.S. Army Europe at the Army 10-Miler in Washington, D.C., Oct. 9.

They are "nominated because although they are one of the top finishers they will still need the commander's approval to be placed on orders" according to IMCOM-Europe sports and fitness director Jim Mattingly.

Free troop billets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact the USAG Grafenwoehr Recreation Division at DSN 475-9024. Camping at Outdoor Recreation Vilseck is available by calling DSN 475-8402.

Last year, the men's IMCOM-E/USAREUR team placed second, losing to Team Hawaii. Maj. Keith Matiskella of Grafenwoehr finished 20th overall, crossing the finish line at 51 minutes and 28 seconds, besting his Grafenwoehr time of 53:9:55.

Participants can preregister on the Grafenwoehr Webtrac at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Grafenwoehrretract.html>

■ Step 1: Register with MWR Online Services - click on "Start a new Preregistration"

■ Step 2: Upon receipt of password, enroll in applicable 10-Miler category

■ Step 3: Sign in on Grafenwoehr Webtrac, click on the 10-Miler icon at the top of the front page for quick access to register.

## Astronaut brings Pluto back to Earth



*Photo by Dorry Hummer*

**GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany — Astronaut Jim Newman visits with Garmisch Elementary-Middle School kindergarteners June 9 after giving the student body a presentation on space and what it was like to be on four shuttle missions. He answered questions from the students concerning outer space; the most frequently asked questions were about aliens and black holes.**

The pictures in the background are from the shuttle missions, and the plush-toy Pluto he holds accompanied him on the Challenger. According to GEMS, Pluto was sent directly to space with Newman as a mascot for the Garmisch students. This was Newman's third visit to GEMS.

## POW's diary touches lives

Continued from page 1

down at where the camp was ... In a way, for me, it's like closure."

During World War II, Stalag 383 served as a nonworking camp for approximately 5,000 noncommissioned officers. It had a relatively extensive program of recreational and educational activities, fostered in part by the World Alliance of YMCAs.

Hohenfels was a far cry from the overcrowded and filthy conditions of their previous prisons. Ted wrote of his arrival: "We finished at Hohenfels ... quite a good camp ... Hohenfels was a sort of summer camp and we moved into small huts which held 14 men in double bunks."

Ted kept an extensive diary of his days in Stalag 383. The original is now housed in the Auckland War Memorial Museum in New Zealand. He had returned to Germany in 1965 to try and find the camp, but never located it.

"Martin always wanted to come here, it's what his father wanted to do, but he never did it, so we really did this for him," said Everton's wife, Diane.

"We only had a vague idea about how we were going to do it," Everton admitted. "The town of Hohenfels was always mentioned. I didn't even know how to say it."

While perusing a website that transcribed a notebook kept by a British POW in Stalag 383, Everton spotted a post in the guestbook by Hohenfels Military community member Kathy McDowell.

McDowell said she had first heard of Stalag 383 while on the training area tour with Melissa Spiszer, wife of Col. John Spiszer, Joint Multinational Readiness Center commander.

"I was actually looking for the book ('Barbed Wire, Memories of Stalag 383' by M.N. McKibbin)," said McDowell. "I thought it would make an excellent farewell gift for her. It's not in print anymore, but I was hoping maybe it's available somewhere, and someone will read

this post."

When Everton saw that McDowell actually lived in Hohenfels, he contacted her for information.

"Kathy told us about this tour of the post and they have a lot of the history of Hohenfels and the camp, and, of course, there was a huge military post now, which I didn't realize was here," Everton said, realizing that was the reason his father had been unable to find the camp.

McDowell arranged for a tour with Norbert Wittl, public affairs officer, who provided them with black and white photos of the camp so they could match up the surrounding countryside.

As they stood among the scant remnants of the camp, Everton sang "Pokarekare Ana," a traditional love song of the Maori, the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand.

"Music was a huge part of their life," said Everton. "They put on these 'Gilbert and Sullivan' type operas. It was a very large part of their camp life."

Ted's diary is full of accounts of plays, musicals and choir practices. Diane said Ted was a natural showman, and with the "Pokarekare Ana" sometimes being referred to as the "unofficial national anthem" of New Zealand, she has no doubt that it would have been sung among the 330 "Kiwi" POWs.

"We all had tears in our eyes when he was done," said Wittl.

The Evertons were struck by the beauty and peacefulness of the area. They visited the Polish cemetery and are thankful that the area has been preserved.

"This place is very, very important. There were 5,000 men here that all have relatives. It touched lots and lots of people's lives," Everton said.

"It was just amazing," said Diane. "Martin's father would have loved it. He would love the fact that we came back, that we've met lovely German people, and we've seen it without all the sad memories."

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## Dempsey works with senior spouses, FRGs to improve programs

Continued from page 1

Dempsey has been a part of the Army family for 35 years. Her husband began his career after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy in 1974 and married Deanie, his high school sweetheart, two years later. Additionally, their three children have all served in the Army. Christopher, their only son, remains on active duty.

Dempsey empathized with the

leaders, stating her long-standing career as a military spouse and mother has given her the knowledge and voice to make the changes necessary to ensure the health and well-being of Army families everywhere. She said hearing the concerns of military spouses in an intimate forum was invaluable for successful developments in the future.

Carla Blackburn, Family Readiness Group senior advisor for 2SCR,

agreed.

"She can do something, she has the power and a voice," said Blackburn. "But she's only as good as the information she receives, which is why these spouse forums are so important."

"Soldiers give their perspectives on Army life to their chain of command, and these forums give spouses a chance to give our perspectives on Army family life," added Me-

lissa Spiszer, FRG senior advisor for Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels. "It validates what we have to say — our concerns and praises."

The floor was not shy as the forum continued, addressing the current budget crisis and what that means for family programs. Dempsey stated spouses needed to "manage expectation and communication" as budget cuts and hiring freezes impede new

programming.

"Family programs will not suffer, but we may need to consolidate and work with what we have," said Dempsey, adding that new programs may be halted, but revamping existing programs to serve the community better could be more beneficial.

"Regardless, we will always take care of our spouses and family," said Dempsey. "Because everyone knows we're pretty darn special."